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ABSTRACT

This bibliography and resource guide lists multicultural resources appropriate for use with preschool children. The majority of references are for books for and about black children. Also cited are books of a general multi-ethnic nature and books about other cultural groups. Additional sections cite films, poetry anthologies, records, publishing companies, and miscellaneous resources. Some suggestions for choosing appropriate books for children are appended to the guide. (MK)

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Multi-Cultural Resources

California State College
Head Start State Training Office
California, Pennsylvania

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Multicultural Resources

Compiled by
Albertha Lynnette Graham
State Training Officer

Spring 1978

California State College
California, Pennsylvania

PURPOSE

This resource booklet was compiled in response to what I saw as a need in Head Start years ago, because this need has been identified over the past three years as a Result of the Consolidated Management Review Process and because I believe...

Preserving Children Culture is a must for the development of self assured adults. As children develop they struggle continuously to establish a sense of self, their earliest learning are of their families, their cultures and themselves. During this critical early learning period the foundation for the eventual self is established. The Preschool experiences for Children should be experiences that preserve their cultures as well as introduce them to new learnings, skill development and Multiculture awareness.

Teaching Children and introducing them to information and experiences that lead to an appreciation and understanding of other cultures, as well as the differences in these cultures, should be one of the goals of any educational system. Our country is one of a pluralistic nature. Cultural differences cannot be ignored. Children come into contact with various ethnic groups via television, magazines, neighborhoods and schools. Today more than ever, ethnic groups are demanding that they be respected and their culture preserved.

Teachers in Pre-school centers and Head Start classrooms have the opportunity to preserve the cultures of the Children they teach. To this end I trust this booklet will be used.

ABOUT THE BOOKLET

Multiculture Resources is a bibliography of books, films, records etc. The list is by no means complete.

It is hoped that pre-school teachers will use this Resource booklet as a guide to the many materials and aids that are available to you.

You will note that a large section is devoted to books with a Black emphasis. This is an area where the resources are definitively lacking. There are other areas where the list is very limited. This is because during my search additional titles were not readily available. It is hoped that as you search you will expand the list for your purposes.

Included at the end, is an article I wrote for the STO Publication entitled "Choosing books for Children. I trust that you will keep the article in mind as you up date and culturalize your bookshelf.

I would also reconmend that you consult with the Children Librarian at the Public Library in your area.

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Resources for and about Black Children

WHAT SHALL I TELL MY CHILDREN
WHO ARE BLACK

What shall I tell my children who are black
Of what it means to be a captive in this dark skin
What shall I tell my dear one, fruit of my womb,
Of how beautiful they are when everywhere they turn
They are faced with abhorrance of everything that
is black.
Villains are black with black hearts.
A black cow gives no milk. A black hen lays no eggs.
Bad news comes bordered in black, black is evil
And evil is black and devil's food is black . . . .

What shall I tell my dear ones raised in a white world
A place where white has been made to represent
All that is good and pure and fine and decent.
Where clouds are white, and dolls, and heaven
Surely is a white, white place with angels
Robed in white, and cotton candy and ice cream
and milk and ruffled Sunday dresses
And dream houses and long sleek cadillacs
And angel's food is white. . . all, all. . white.

What can I say therefore, when my child
Comes home in tears because a playmate
Has called him black, big lipped, flatnosed
and nappy headed? What will he think
When I dry his tears and whisper "Yes, that's true,
But no less beautiful and dear."
How shall I lift up his head, get him to square
His shoulders, look his adversaries in the eye
Confident of the knowledge of his worth,
Serene under his sable skin and proud of his own beauty?
What can I do to give him strength
That he may come through life's adversities
As a whole human being unwarped and human in a world
of biased laws and inhuman practices, that he might Survive,
and survive he must! For who knows? Perhaps this black
child here bears the genius to discover the cure
for. . . Cancer
Or to chart the course for exploration of the universe.
So, he must survive for the good of all humanity.
He must and will survive.
I have drunk deeply of late from the fountain
Of my black culture, sat at the knee and learned
From Mother Africa, discovered the truth of my heritage,
The truth, so often obscured and omitted.
And I find I have much to say to my black children.

-1-

I will lift up their heads in proud blackness
With the story of their fathers and their fathers
Fathers. And I shall take them into a way back time
of Kings and Queens who ruled the Nile,
And measured the stars and discovered the
Laws of mathematics. Upon whose backs have been built
The wealth of continents. I will tell him
This and more. And his heritage shall be his weapon
And his armor will make him strong enough to win
Any battle he may face. And since this story is
Often observed, I must sacrifice to find it
For my children even as I sacrifice to feed
Clothe and shelter them. So this I will do for them
If I love them. None will do it for me.
I must find the truth of heritage for myself
And pass it on to them. In years to come I believe
Because I have armed them with the truth, my children
And their children's children will venerate me,
For it is the truth that will make us free!

...margaret burroughs

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Mexican American

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Camille, Josephine. Carlos and the Brave Owl. New York: Random House. 1968. (Mexican).

Ets, Marie Hall. Bad Boy, Good Boy. New York: Crowell. 1967.

Ets, Marie Hall. Gilbert and the Wind. New York: Viking. 1963.

Ets, Marie Hall & Labastida, Aurora. Nine Days to Christmas. New York: Viking. 1959.

Grifalconi, Ann. The Toy Trumpet. Indianapolis: Bobbs. 1969.

Politi, Leo. Juanita. New York: Scribner. 1948.

Oriental

Mizumura, Kazue. *If I Built a Village*. New York: Crowell. 1971.

Philippines

Yotoko, Maria. Tobie and the Christmas Bell. Available from Allan Book Shop. 1962.

Puerto Rican

Barry, Robert. The Muscial Palm Tree: A Story of Puerto Rico. New York: McGraw. 1965.

Bourne, Miriam Anne. Elilio's Summer Day. New York: Harper. 1966.

Ormshy, Virginia. What's Wrong with Julio? Philadelphia: Lippincott. 1965.

Sonneborn, Ruth. The Lollipop Party. New York: Viking. 1968.

Sonneborn, Ruth. Friday Night is Papa Night. Viking. 1970.

Films

16 Millimeter Films

Anansi the Spider. African Folk Tale. 1969.

The Awful Tooth. 1938. (Little Rascals). 11 minutes.

The Ball that Wanted to Play. (English). 10 minutes.

Balthazar the Lion. 12 minutes.

Canned Fishing. 1938. (Little Rascals). 12 minutes.

Caterpillar. (Animated). 16 minutes. 1971.

Christmas Visitor. 1962. 8 minutes.

The Circus Baby. 1956. 5 minutes.

The Concert. 1974. 12 minutes.

The Cowtail Switch: A Folktale of Africa. 1970. 8 minutes.

The Crying Red Giant. 1967. 16 minutes.

Dr. Seuss on the Loose. 1974. 25 minutes.

Donald's Crime. 1976. (Donald Duck). 7 minutes.

Donald's Fire Survival Plan. 11 minutes.

Dorothy and the Parrot. (Animated). 6 minutes. 1976.

Dorothy and the Witch. 1975. 9 minutes.

Dragon Stew. 1972. 13 1/2 minutes.

The Fable of He and She. 1974. 12 minutes.

Ferdinand the Bull. 8 minutes.

The Fire Flowers and Yet Sing Low. 1967. 6 minutes.

The Foolish Frog. 1971. 8 minutes.

Framing Youth. 1934. (Little Rascals). 10 minutes.

The Frog Prince. 1969. 7 minutes.

Frog Went A Courtin. 1961. 12 minutes.

Georgie. 1956. 6 minutes.

Georgie to the Rescue. 1971. 10 minutes.

16 Millimeter Films (cont.)

Glove Taps. 1937. (Little Rascals). 11 minutes.

Goggles. 1974. (Black). 6 minutes.

The Happy Elf. 1967. 11 minutes.

The Happy Owls. 1969. 6 minutes.

Hide and Shriek. 1938. (Little Rascals). 10 minutes.

How the Elephant Got His Trunk. 1970. 10 minutes.

I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly. 1964. 6 minutes.

Just Awful. 1971. 8 minutes.

Just One Me. (Animated). 1971. 9 minutes.

Kangaroos. (Live Action). 1970. 10 minutes.

Leave Herbert Alone. (Live Action). 1974. 8 minutes.

Leopold the See Through Crumbpicker. (Animated). 1970. 9 minutes.

A Letter to Amy. 1970. (Black). 7 minutes.

The Little Engine That Could. 1963. 11 minutes.

Lollipop Opera. 1971. 8 minutes.

Madeline's Rescue. 1964. 7 minutes.

Mail & Female. 1937. 11 minutes.

Many Moons. 1962. 10 minutes.

Mike Mulligan & His Steam Shovel. 1956. 11 minutes.

Miss Esta Maude's Secret. 1964. 10 minutes.

The Mole and the Chewing Gum. (Animated). 9 minutes.

The Mole as a Gardner. (Animated). 9 minutes.

The Mole and the Hedgehog. (Animated). 10 minutes.

The Mole and the Lollipop. 1972. 9 minutes.

The Mole and the Umbrella. (Animated). 1973. 9 minutes.

16 Millimeter Films (cont.)

The Mole in the Zoo. (Animated). 10 minutes.

Morris the Midget Moose. 8 minutes.

Night's Nice. 10 minutes.

Now I Am Bigger. 1976. 10 minutes.

The Owl and the Pussycat. 1962. 6 minutes.

Peter and the Wolf. 14 minutes.

Peter's Chair. 1971. 6 minutes.

Pigs. 1967. 11 minutes.

The Pigskin Polooka. 1937. (Little Rascals). 11 minutes.

Pluto's Christmas Tree. 7 minutes.

The Poky Little Puppy. (Animated). 7 1/2 minutes.

The Red Carpet. 1955. 9 minutes.

The Rolling Rice Ball. (Japanese). 1967. 11 minutes.

Rosie's Walk. (Animated). 1971. 5 minutes.

Sandman. 4 minutes.

Sebastian and Scatterbrain. (Live Action). 11 minutes.

Snowman's Dilemma. 1970. 9 minutes.

Spunky the Snowman. (Christmas Story). 12 minutes.

The Story about Ping.

Shout It Out Alphabet. 1972. 12 minutes.

The Strange Story of the Frog Who Became a Prince. 1972. 12 minutes.

Three Little Rabbits. 1974. 6 minutes.

The Three Robbers. (Animated). 1977. 6 minutes.

Too Many Boozos. 6 minutes.

The Town Musicians. 1955. 10 minutes.

16 Millimeter Films (cont.)

Trick or Treat. (Walt Disney). (Animated). 8 minutes.

The Twelve Days of Christmas. 6 minutes.

The Ugly Duckling. 1953 - 10 minutes. 1977 - 15 minutes.

Visit With Farmer Joe. (Live Action). 1975. 12 minutes.

Where the Wild Things Are. (Animated). 8 minutes.

Whistle for Willie. 1964. 6 minutes.

Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky. (Nigerian Folktale). 1970. 11 minutes.

Zoo's Eye View. (Live Action). Children have been, or are going to Zoo. 11 minutes.

Poetry

Books of Poems

Behn, Harry. Cricket Songs: Japanese Haiku. New York: Harcourt. 1964.

Bontemps, Arna. Golden Slippers. New York: Harper & Row.

Brooks, Gwendolyn. Bronzeville Boys and Girls. New York: Harper. 1956.

Brossvenor, Kali. Poems by Kali.

Jacobs, Leland B. Just Around the Corner.

Giovanni, Nikki. Spin a Soft Black Song. Hill & Way.

Huang, Ching-Yun. Flowers In Full Bloom. Foriegn Language Press. Peking. 1966.

Hughes, Langston. Black Misery.

Greensberg, Polly. The Devil Has Slippery Shoes. Macmillian.

McBrown, Gertrude Parthenia. The Picture-Poetry Book. Washington: Associated Publishers.

Chukovsky, Kornei. From Two To Five. Los Angeles: University of California Press. 1963.

Records

Records

Ghana Children At Play. Children's Songs and Games. By Ivan Annan. $7.98.

Louis Armstrong. Disney Songs the Satchmo Way. Walt Disney Productions. 1968.

Follow the Sunset. By Charity Bailey. $7.98.

Music Time With Charity Bailey. By Charity Bailey. $6.98.

Bascom, William (recorder). Drums of the Yoruba of Negeria. New York City: Folkways Records and Service Corp. 1956. (FE 4441).

Bennett, Louise. Children's Jamaican Songs and Games. (FC 7250).

Woody Guthrie's Children's Songs. Sung by Logan English. $7.98.

Ashanti, Folktales from Ghana. New York: Folkways Records and Service Corp.

Drums of Haiti. New York City: Folkways Records and Service Corp. (FE 4403).

Negro Poetry for Young Children. New York: Folkways Records and Service Corp.

There's a Brown Boy in the Ring. Folkways Records and Service Corp. 1966.

West Indian Folksongs for Children. Lord Invader. Folkways Records and Service Corp. (FE 7744).

Songs to Grow On. By Woody Guthrie. $7.98.

Songs to Grow On For Mother and Child. By Woody Guthrie. $6.98.

Rhythms of the World. Narrated by Langston Hughes. $6.98.

The Dream Keeper. Langston Hughes. $7.98.

Adventures In Rhythm. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

A Long Time. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98.

And One And Two. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

Counting Games and Rhythms for the Little Ones, Vol. 1. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

Early Early Childhood Songs. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

Jambo-And Other Call-And-Response Songs & Chants. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98.

Little Johnny Brown. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

Records (cont.)

My Street Begins At My House. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

Nursery Rhymes - Rhyming & Remembering. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

Play Your Instruments and Make a Pretty Sound. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

Rhythm and Game Songs for the Little Ones, Vol. 2. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

Rhythms of Childhood. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

Seasons for Singing. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98.

Songs and Rhythms From Near and Far. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

This-A-Way, That-A-Way. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

This Is Rhythm. By Ella Jenkins. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

We Are All America's Children. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song. By Ella Jenkins. $7.98.

Getting It Together and Other Nursery Songs. By Edgar Kendricks. $7.98.

French Folk Songs for Children in English. By Alan Mills. $6.98.

African Songs by Miriam Makeba. RCA Victor.

Abiyoyo and Other Story Songs for Children. By Pete Seeger. $7.98.

American Folk Songs for Children. By Pete Seeger. $7.98.

Folk Songs for Young People. By Pete Seeger. $7.98.

Old Time Songs for Children. By Mike Seeger. $6.98.

Song and Playtime. By Pete Seeger. $7.98.

Songs to Grow On, Vol. 2: School Days. By Pete Seeger. $6.98.

Andre Watts. Rhythms of the World. New York: Columbia Records, Folkways Records, 1955.

Call-And-Response Rhythmic Group Singing. LP $7.98. Cassette $7.95.

Publishers

Publishing Companies

Afro-Am Publishing Co., 1727 S. Indiana Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60616.

AEVAC, Inc., 1604 Park Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060.

Alkebu-Lan Books, % Y. Ben Jochannan, 40 W. 135th St., New York, NY 10037.

Arno Press, Inc., 330 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

The Association for the Study of Negro Life & History, 1538 Ninth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, 110 Windermere Road, London W4, England.

Black Arts Publication, 3484 Ewald Circle, Detroit, Michigan 48204.

Broadside Press, 12651 Old Mill Place, Detroit, Michigan 48238.

Combined Paperback Exhibit, American Library Association Conference, Atlantic City, N.J.

Coronet Films, 65 East South Water St., Chicago, Illinois 60600.

Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 201 Park Avenue S., New York, NY 10003.

Demco Curriculum Materials, Box 1488, Madison, Wisconsin 53701.

Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, New York 10014.

East Publications, 10 Claver Place, Brooklyn, New York

Encyclopedia Britannica Educational Corp., 3712 Jarvis Ave., Skokie, IL 60076.

Eye Gate House, Inc., 146-01 Archer Avenue, Jamaica, New York 11435.

Edwina Johnson Publications, 114-53 207th St., Cambria Hgts., Queens, NY 11411.

Fisk University Press, % Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

Four Winds Press, 50 West 44th St., New York, New York 10020.

Franklin Watts, Inc., 575 Lexington Ave., New York, New York 10022.

Greenwood Press, Inc., 211 East 43rd St., New York, New York 10017.

Hertzberg-New Method, Inc., Vandalia Rd., Jacksonville, Illinois 52650.

Hill and Wang, Inc., 72 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011.

Houghton Mifflin Co., 1900 South Batavia Ave., Geneva, Illinois 60134.

The House of Knowledge, 328 East 39th St., Chicago, Illinois 60653.

Publishing Companies (cont.)

Jihad Publications, P.O. Box 663, Neward, New Jersey 07103.

Johnson Publishing Co., 820 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60600.

Journal of Black Poetry Press, 922-B Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

J. B. Lippincott Co., East Washington Sq., Philadelphia, PA 19105.

Louisiana Street University Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

More Publications, 1515 Filmore St., San Francisco, California 94115.

National Education Association, 1201 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20000.

National Memorial Bookstore, 101 West 125th St., New York, New York 10027.

National School Public Relations Association, 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Pan-African Congress Press, Box 551-A, Main Station, Detroit, Michigan 48232.

Pan-African Work Center, 751 Evelyn Place, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

Paul S. Erickson, Inc., 119 West 57th St., New York, New York 10019.

Pitman Publishing Co., 6 East 43rd Street, New York, New York 10017.

Poets and Painters Press, 146 Bridge Arch, Sutton Walk, London, S.E. 1, England.

Ms. J. A. Rogers, 1270 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10029.

Science Research Associates, Inc., 259 East Erie St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Simon and Schuster Publishing Co., 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10020.

Society for Visual Education, Inc., 1345 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614.

Third World Press, 6447 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Troll Associates, 64 East Midland Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey 08652.

Warren Schloat Productions, Inc., Pleasantville, New York 10570.

Youth Organization for Black Unity, P.O. Box 20826, Greensboro, N.C. 27420.

Other Resources

Resources

Black Child Development Institute, 1463 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

The Black Experience in Children's Books. Office of Children Services, New Public Library, 8 E. 40th Street, New York, New York 10016.

Books for friendship: A List of Books recommended for children. American Friends Service Committee, 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102.

Center for Urban Education, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016.

Children's Music Center, 5373 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Colorado 90019. History and contribution of Black American and Spanish-Speaking Americans.

Council on Interracial Books for Children, 1841 Broadway, New York, New York 10023.

ERIC Clearinghouse on Early Childhood Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 805 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

Language Speech - Hearing Services in Schools. Special Issue. Language and the Black Urban Child, Vol. 11 No. 4. October. 1972.

Materials Center - MLA-ACTFL, 62 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011. Best records and books about Spanish-Speaking Americans.

Multi-Cultural Institute, 693 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

Japanese American Curriculum Project, P.O. Box 367, San Mateo, California 94401.

For free posters, films, calendars, booklets, etc. and information about any nationalities you may contact the Consulate Generals Office in New York City. Call New York information for Telephone # 212-555-1212. See example below:

Polish Consulate General Cultural Division
233 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016
212-889-8360

Polish Information Center
Polish National Tourist Office
500 5th Avenue, #1435
New York, New York 10036

BLACK INVENTORS LIST

There have been and are hundreds of Negro ("Black") Inventors. This is only a sample listing of some of them. You can check out Adam's Great Negroes Past and Present and Salk's A Layman's Guide to Negro History for a fuller listing. Note that the redundant usage of "Negro" is used only because these men wrote before Negroes started a massive turn towards BLACKNESS.

L.C. Bailey
Folding Bed
July 18, 1899

L.C. Bell
Locomotive Smoke Stack
May 23, 1871

M.W. Binga
Street Sprinkler
July 22, 1879

A.B. Blackburn
Railroad Signal
Jan. 10, 1888

Sarah Boone
Ironing Board
April 26, 1892

H.A. Bowman
Making Flags
Feb. 26, 1892

C.B. Brooks
Street Sweepers
March 17, 1896

L.F. Brown
Bridle Bit
Nov. 2, 1886

Eugene Burkins
Rapid Fire Gun

J.A. Burr
Lawnmowed
Switching Devise
for Railroads
Oct. 31, 1899

R.A. Butler
Train Alarm
June 15, 1897

J.W. Butts
Luggage Carrier
April 2, 1895

W.S. Campbell
Animal Trap
Aug. 3, 1899

B.F. Cargill
Invalid Cott
July 25, 1895

J. Cooper
Elevator Devise
April 2, 1895

H. Creamer
Steam Traps
Nov. 21, 1893

W.F. Cosgrove
Automatic Stop
Plug for Gas/Oil
March 17, 1885

W.A. Dietz
Shoe
April 30, 1867

Dorticus, C. J.
Photo Embossing
Machine
April 16, 1895

T. Elkins
Chamber Cammode
Jan. 9, 1872

F. J. Ferrell
Valve Steam Trap
Feb. 11, 1890

R. F. Fleming Jr.
Guitar
March 3, 1886

G.F. Grant
Golf Tee
Dec. 12, 1899

Jones & Long
Caps for bottles
Sept. 13, 1898

J.L. Love
Pencil Sharpener
Nov. 23, 1897

T. J. Marshall
Fire Extinguisher
May 26, 1872

Jan E. Matlieger
Shoe Last Machine
Sept. 22, 1891

Elihah McCoy
Lubricator for
Steam engine/cars
July 2, 1872

A. Miles
Elevator
Oct. 11, 1887

Garrett A. Morgan
Electric Stop Light

G.W. Murray
Cotton Chopper
June 5, 1894

O'Conner & Turner
Boiler Alarm
Aug. 25, 1896

W. Purdy
Sharpening Devise
Aug. 1, 1899

W.B. Purvis
Paper Bag Machine

A.C. Richardson
Casket Lowering Devise
Nov. 23, 1894

J.W. Smith
Lawn Sprinkler
May 4, 1897

Graham T. Woods
Steam Boiler
Furnace
June 3, 1884

Telephone Transmitter
Dec. 2, 1884

Elec. Mech. Brake
Railway Telegraph
Induction Telegraph
Elec. Railway System
Galvanic Battery
Life Saving Appar.

Posters-Pictures-Games

African Culture Series, Native Artifacts 1. Children's Museum, Detroit Public Schools.

Black ABC's. Chicago, Illinois: Society for Visual Education.

Children at School and Play. Chicago: Johnson Publishing Co.

Floor Puzzle Breakfast. Chicago, Illinois: Scott, Foresman and Co.

Judy's Neighbors (Negro Family). Minneapolis: Judy Co.

My Home and Family (Negro) Activity Kit. Paoli, Pa.; Instructo Corp.

Story Sets (Negro Family). Minneapolis: Judy Co.

Understanding Our Feelings, No. 1215. Paoli, Pa.; Instructo Corp.

*Please Note:

Ebony Magazine has excellent pictures. The magazine can be purchased from Johnson Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois.

BOOKS AND CHILDREN

Many teachers have complained that parents expect them to teach their children to read. It is understandable for parents to focus on their children's being able to read. Most reports from elementary, high school and some colleges are pointing to the fact that too many children are not able to read, some students are smart enough to go from grade to grade without being able to read. Parents know that in later life not being able to read can be very detrimental to their children. They want the best for their children, so as the first formal teacher of their children they expect you to teach their child to read.

As a pre-school teacher you must know that teaching children to read requires some prerequisite skills.

This, you must communicate to parents. You must be able to explain to parents that you teach reading readiness skills. Also, it is important that you are able to explain to parents the process of how it is done.

I am sure that you use books as a main source for teaching reading readiness skills. You should encourage parents to use books also, however, take into consideration how you select books and communicate this to parents.

How do you decide what books to purchase? Do you go to the children's book section in the local store and pick up a handful of books, because the cover looks good? Should you be concerned about what's in a book, if the book cover states very clearly "For Children Ages 3-6"?

Like children, books for them are different. There are a variety of books, there are some good books, and there are some ridiculous books. Some books have only pictures, other books have only words. There are some books about people, places, and things. There are books about feelings and emotions. There are books, books, books. . .

You must decide. Knowing what children are like at different ages is very important. Let's see- - -

The three year olds are still "me centered". They are interested in and like stories about themselves, their families, their pets, basically they like stories about the world as they know it. Their interest is short lived, the attention span is short, they like repetition.

The four and five year olds are more sophisticated. They like stories about children and families like themselves. They are interested in people they know about and come in contact with, such as; the policeman and/or policewoman, the mailman, the fireman, doctors and nurses, etc. At this age they like stories that have funny ideas and funny sounding words. They are very curious about their world. Language develops rapidly during the ages3-6.

What books will you purchase?

Here are some suggestions that can be used as criteria for selecting books for children.

Choose books that -

- are age appropriate
- are easy to understand
- are culturally and ethnically revelant
- the picture tells a story
- have clear pictures
- relate to the children's background as well as their style
- tell about and explain experiences that children are having, such as; going to the store, feeling happy or feeling angry, finding a special friend
- explain things that they are interested in, such as; how does a plant grow, what mothers do when they are in school, what fathers do at work
- relate to children a realistic view of life
- stimulate interest and provide enjoyment
- can be used to meet individuals needs (can teach a concept)
- etc., etc., etc.

Other factors that should be considered:

- teacher should choose books that she enjoys
- many books are multipurpose and can be used that way

Many children books are being published today. Content wise, some of them are rip-offs. Let's be wise shoppers, even for children books.